



# Potters Guild of British Columbia

1359 Cartwright St., Granville Island  
Vancouver, B.C. V6H 3R7  
(604) 683-9623

## NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 1990

ISSN 6319 812X

### WORKSHOP

with

**PAUL MATHIEU**

February 16 & 17, 1991

at

Emily Carr College of Art & Design  
Ceramic Dept, 1399 Johnston St.  
Granville Island, Vancouver

Mathieu, an innovative Québec ceramic artist and a winner of the 1990 National Ceramics Biennial, will give a two-day weekend workshop in February for ECCAD and the Guild.

Best known for his pieces incorporating stacked dishes unified by overlapping painted images, Mathieu is inspired by Québec folklore and landscape, religion, sexuality, and dinnerware. About him, editor and critic Michael McTwigan states, "His work . . . is at once ceramic, painting, and sculpture combined into a new genre. Mathieu, and many of his young peers, refuses to be classified by genre or medium. Mathieu and his kind are leading ceramics into unknown territory: the journey promises to be exhilarating."

Mathieu, however, feels his work does not refer to other art forms, but rather it "is solely and entirely ceramic", and that ceramics historically is comprised of various genres. He believes the mixing of media and the synthesizing of elements and imagery in contemporary art is not new, when viewed within the context of the functioning of ceramics.

*Continued on Page 4*

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Potters' Guild of B.C.**

Thursday, January 24, 1991,  
7:30 pm

Granville Island  
Information Centre  
1592 Johnston St.,  
Granville Island

See page 2 for Agenda

Special opportunity to view the  
"Choosing Clay" exhibition

### WORKSHOP

with

**HANK MORROW**

January 19 & 20, 1991

Burnaby Art Centre  
6450 Deer Lake Avenue  
Burnaby

In conjunction with the Burnaby Art Centre, the Potters' Guild offers a two-day weekend workshop with the well-known Oregon potter. An expert on kiln design and building, and a potter who produces porcelain tableware, Hank will give a demonstration and show slides of his work. This workshop promises to be fun and informative, and at the end of the last day, a potluck dinner is planned. (Hank also likes to cook, and you are invited to join in by bringing something for that meal together.)

Workshop fee is \$40.00, \$35.00 to Guild members. Registration is to be made through the Burnaby Art Centre. Call Lara Leckey at the Centre at 291-6864. Workshop hours are 10 am to 4 pm, and it is suggested that you also bring a bag lunch, as restaurants are not easily found nearby.



*"Les 2 flèches du temps"*  
101cm  
Paul Mathieu

## The Potters Guild of B.C. NEWSLETTER

is published 10 times a year as a service to the Membership. Submissions are welcome, and should be in the Guild office by the last Friday of the month. Material may be edited for publication.

**Managing Editor:** Jan Kidnie.

**Editorial Committee:** Bob Kingsmill, Laurel McGregor, Hiro Urakami, Nathan Rafla, Anne Fleetham.

**Mailing:** Rosemary Amon, Jobst Froberg (lists), Savita Kshatrija, Gillian McMillan and Terry Saimoto.

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**The Potters Guild of B.C.** membership is \$20.00-individuals, \$30.00-groups, January to December. See application form elsewhere in this issue.

**Board of Directors:** Tam Irving-President, D'Arcy Margesson-Vice President, Kathryn Youngs-Treasurer, June MacDonald-Secretary, Heather Chapman, Bob Kingsmill, Carol Klasen, Elwin Lowe, Dona Nabata, Nathan Rafla, Elsa Schamis, Laura Taylor.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given the membership of the Annual General Meeting of the Potters' Guild of B.C., Thursday, January 24, 1991, starting at 7:30 pm at the Granville Island Info Centre.

### AGENDA

1. Minutes of January 25, 1990 AGM
2. Annual Reports from President, Treasurer, and other members of the Board
3. Discussion of current activities and future plans
4. New Business
5. Election of Directors

The meeting will adjourn for refreshments at the Guild office and Gallery before 10:00 pm. If you can, please bring some light snacks for that get-together.

As the Canadian Craft Museum at the Cartwright Gallery will be open that evening, why not make it a "double-barrelled" evening and take some additional time to view the jointly-sponsored exhibition "Choosing Clay" at the Cartwright Gallery before the Annual General Meeting.

A ballot for the election of officers will be included in the January Newsletter, along with a statement from each nominee.

June Macdonald, Secretary

See page 6 for Nominating Cttee Report

## CHOOSING CLAY

The exhibition sponsored jointly by the Canadian Craft Museum and the Potters' Guild of B.C. will open at a reception on the evening of January 10th, 1991, at the Cartwright Gallery, 1411 Cartwright St., Granville Island.

Seven ceramists who have sustained an expressively significant body of work have chosen either an emerging talent or an artist in a period of transition. The exhibition will comprise one piece by each of the sponsors to act as a prologue to five pieces by each of the chosen candidates.

<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Chosen Artist</u>
Gordon Hutchens .....	Lea Mann
Charmain Johnson .....	Jane Williams
Sam Kwan .....	Lari Robson
David Lawson .....	Gary Graham
Jeannie Mah .....	Fredi Rahn
James Thornsbury .....	Gary Merkel
Kathryn Youngs .....	Connie Glover

The show runs from January 11th to March 24th, and plans are underway for travelling the show to Prince George, Kelowna, Castlegar, and Brandon, Manitoba. Mark the opening on your calendar!

Tam Irving  
Exhibitions Committee Chairman

## AWARDS

The Potters' Guild of BC annually makes an award to students in ceramic programs at colleges throughout British Columbia. This past year, six students, two at each of three colleges, have received \$100 awards.

The David Lambert Award for first year students went to:

**Jo Margaret Jinkerson** at Capilano College;  
**Marguerite Laliberté** at Langara; and  
**Laura Taylor** at Emily Carr College.

The Olea Davis award for Second year students went to:

**Teena Shaw** at Capilano College;  
**Simon Ho** at Langara; and  
**Angela Carson** at Emily Carr College.

Congratulations to all of them!

This fall, the BC teaching institutions with ceramic programs have been contacted with information regarding changes in the awards program. Commencing in 1991, the amounts of scholarships will be increased to \$500 for two scholarships to be named the Olea

Davis Memorial Award, and the David Lambert Memorial Award. These amounts will be awarded annually to two deserving students in ceramics who will be completing second year studies at a College or Institution offering a Ceramics program. Application procedures will be through the participating colleges, with submissions this year to be received no later than March 31, 1991. The awards will be presented upon the completion of the recipients' second year.

June MacDonald  
Awards Committee Chairman



Gallery of B.C. Ceramics  
1359 Cartwright St.  
Vancouver BC, Canada  
(604) 669-5645 V6H 3R7

## GALLERY REPORT

December is here already, and the busiest time of year, for all of us. We know it's been a productive fall for many of you, including the Gallery sellers, because the Gallery is filled to overflowing with your work!

Coralie has returned from Europe where she assisted her husband on a Langara student external studies trip. To Lea Price we are grateful for her capable and good-natured managing of the shop in Coralie's absence. The Gallery will be open regular hours of 10:30 to 5:30, Tuesday through Sunday, with the exception that it will also be open on Monday, Christmas Eve. Any questions? Call the Gallery at 669-5645.

Thanks to Gordon Hutchens for the following comments on his recent feature show in the Gallery.

The earthenware pieces in the show were examples of some of the tests I've been doing over the last few years in low-fire reduction glazes. These pieces were fired between Cone 04 and Cone 01, some in reduction on the way up, others reduced while the kiln was cooling. The colors were surprisingly different depending on when they were reduced. I found that I could produce depth and richness usually associated with high fire glazes, but with different color responses due to the lower temperature. On some of the pieces I used overlapping layers of different copper red glazes, and perhaps a brush stroke of a silver nitrate glaze. One of the combinations I found most interesting used layers of glazes containing rutile, copper, or manganese with wax resist over a silver nitrate base glaze.

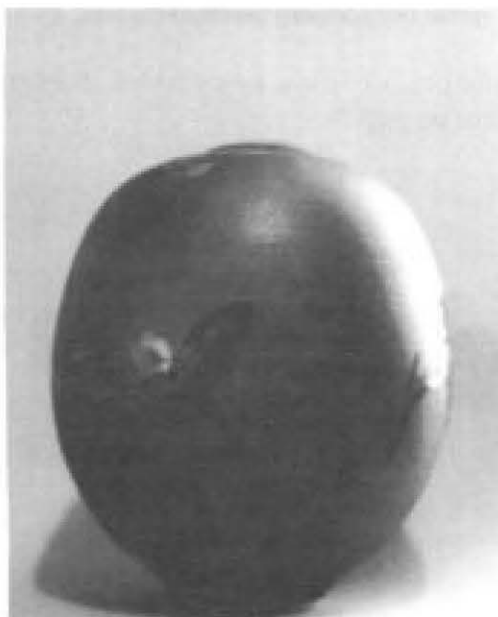
I've been testing out several white and buff earthenware bodies fluxed with talc and wollastonite and sometimes a little frit. Some of the bodies include C-1 clay, a white burning clay with a relatively low vitrification point and very unusual working qualities.



Salt glazed teapot

The salt-glazed pieces included some in porcelain where I covered the piece in copper slip then brushed thick ocean wave strokes of porcelain slip over. Because of the addition of calcium carbonate to the porcelain slip, it gave the salt a more matte surface, and took on a nice pink blush from the copper below. These I fanned lightly while they were cooling.

Gordon Hutchens  
Denman Island



Low fired vase



Salt glazed vase

## SO YOU WANT TO BUY A POT

"Have you any pots that say 'Made in Canada'?" "Well, not exactly, but we must have something for you and we'll write down the artist's name on our card." I still smile at how many times this fall that scenario was repeated.

It was a real pleasure to take charge of the Gallery when Coralie was away. Bink was in seventh heaven, knowing she'd be pampered by all for doing tricks. She *did* have a lot of responsibility, sitting quietly in the store with the children so they wouldn't race around the Gallery, bumping into plinths!

I did meet a lot of folks, and it was fun to give them information about the creator of and the process he or she used to make the individual piece they were interested in. Those people left with "deeper clay consciousness", whether they wanted it or not! I certainly didn't get bored, even when it was quiet. I had many "box-attacks", pre-making so many that they lined the stairs to the Guild office, in anticipation of selling

Continued on page 5



## MATHIEU (Continued from page one)

With thanks to the Alberta Potters' Association and its *Contact* magazine (Spring '89), we reprint Léopold Foulem's article on a 1988 show of Paul's work.

*Paul Mathieu's recent solo exhibition, held in Garth Clark Gallery in New York City included various types of ceramic objects.*

*As well as the well-known and highly innovative series of temporarily-stacked dishes, stoneware vases and porcelain bowls recalling Mathieu's earlier repertoire of functional forms were exhibited.*

*At first impression, this juxtaposition of pieces seems to be incongruous, haphazard, inconclusive and most disturbing—upsetting because of the apparent disconnection between the more complex and formally aggressive works, namely his proverbial pile of dishes, and the simpler, mundane (although by no means less intelligent) vases and bowls.*

*Mathieu's decision to present a variety of ceramic containers, instead of a single series of "high vessels", is unquestionably political. Here the artist alludes to the "gentrification", or perhaps more accurately, the "prettification" of craft objects as essentially static merchandise for interior decoration.*

*By including what apparently is, at first glance, simple vases and simple bowls in the same exhibition with his conceptually more daring stacked dishes, the artist clarifies his formal credo. His statement is clear and direct. All, yes, all the objects that comprise this one-man show, are standard and usable pottery forms, and it is only with this understanding that the particular selection of items makes not only good sense, but also a strong and coherent statement.*

*By contrasting "high vessels" (the stacked dishes in this case), and "low vessels" (the straightforward functional pots), Paul Mathieu addresses a truly pertinent issue in this "fin de siècle" era, where far too many ceramic vessels could easily be discounted as decadent and degenerate curios. Paul Mathieu's ceramics always respect and refer to the generic group. Within the decorative arts tradition especially, Mathieu's artistic contribution is singularly significant.*

*The wheel-thrown bases and bowls, with their jagged cut-out rims and incised floral polychromatic motifs, owe as much to Kenzan as to coloring-book illustrations, to Seures as to Noritake. This impudent ambivalence creates an intellectual anguish when such works are juxtaposed with the noble temporarily-stacked dishes.*

Workshop hours will be from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, both days. Registration, through the Guild office, can be made using the form on page 7.

*"Porcelain Bowl", 1988  
by Paul Mathieu*



## OPPORTUNITIES

**Instructor**, preferably Fraser Valley based, required for ceramic workshops through **B.C. Prison Arts program**. Contact Marianne Otterstrom or Gary Wyatt at 421-6015.

APA's annual **Ceramic Seminar** in Calgary is scheduled for May 17-19, 1991. On the guest list is Jennifer Opie, Curator of Contemporary Ceramics, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, Anne Cummings, Rona Neuen-schwender, Torbjorn Kvabo, Jeannot Blackburn, Bruce Taylor, Lindsay Dumas, Ralph Becerra, Vina Borging-Aberate. More info to come in January!

**Alberta Potters Association** celebrates its 20th Anniversary with an exhibition of **CUPS** in May 1991—open to all alumni and people who have worked in clay in Alberta in the past 20 years. Contact: Glenys Marshall-Irman, Box 2, Site 8, R.R. #1, Priddis, Alberta T0L 1W0 (403) 931-3566.

**Vancouver Craft Market** at the Van-Dusen Botanical Gardens takes place on a regular basis. Contact Simone Avram, 8540 Demorest Dr., Richmond, B.C., V7A 4M1, 275-2724 for details.

**Parke International Markets** are accepting application for their craft markets at Whistler, Kamloops, Van Dusen Gardens, Vancouver, West Vancouver, Coquitlam, White Rock, and Penticton. Contact 3257 W. 36th Ave., Vancouver, B.C., V6N 2R6, or phone 263-2363.

**Call For Entry:** The Assembly of B.C. Arts Councils ninth annual provincial juried art exhibition "Images and Objects" will be held in North Vancouver from May 22 to 22, 1991. It has a new thematic concept, "Creative Approaches to Community Issues", and further information may be obtained by calling the Community Arts Council in your region. Deadline dates vary from January through March, depending on region. The Assembly office in Vancouver may also be contacted at 738-0749.

The **B.C. Creative Arts Show** will be held March 10-12 at the B.C. Place Stadium. Application deadline is December 20th.

## BUY A POT - continued from page 3

everything the next day! And one certainly gets their exercise, moving everything in the Gallery around. It's amazing how many people discover "something new" when displays are simply rearranged.



Binky - 1990 Mascot

And the folks, the folks . . . ! Some were so enthralled with the beauty and diversity of the work, they just couldn't decide what to take home. One couple came at 5:35 after I locked the door, "Oh please, we just want to look and take 5 minutes." "Sure, I still have to count the float." Bink, exhausted, sniffed and collapsed in his bed. Those folks looked, talked, looked again (New York versions of Monty Python characters), and talked some more. It was after seven when I finally left, but they had bought \$300 worth of ceramics and went to visit the artist, which I arranged over the phone. And then they stayed and talked to him for another two hours! That's business!

Lea Price

## VIDEO DEVELOPMENT

Following several months discussion and consideration, the Board of the Guild has agreed to make \$2,500 available towards the production of the video being filmed near Chase in the northern Okanagan about **Cris Giuffrida's** anagama kiln. Entitled "**Painting With Fire**", we look forward to its completion!

## MEETING NOTES

Don Hutchinson, Bob Kingsmill, and Donna McLaren were guest gurus at the Guild meeting held in mid-November in the Gallery, with an audience approaching 20 people. There weren't too many technical questions asked, much to Don's disappointment, but a wide range of subjects was discussed from the GST to how to improve as well as promote one's work.

We hope to have another similar session in the new year, inviting perhaps kiln and/or material experts, and so, in anticipation, jot your questions down in the meantime. The next meeting will of course be the AGM in January, but in March at the latest we will hold another general get-together.

## QUOTE NOTE

Peter Powning, in a recent article in *Contact* magazine (Summer 1990):

*"I am in danger of becoming like much of my own work: unapologetically semi-functional."*



Gordon Hutchens  
Salt glaze vase

## EXHIBITIONS

**Illusions in Clay**, by Kathryn Youngs at Fire Works, 210 - 1st Ave. S., Seattle, December 6th-January 6th.

**Think Small**: An Exhibition and Sale of Selected Miniature Works, to December 28th, at the Place des Arts, 1120 Brunett Ave., Coquitlam. 9 am - 10 pm.

## LIBRARY NEWS

A work session is planned for Thursday, January 17 from 10 am to 2 pm. If you can spend even two hours, your help would be appreciated. Phone or leave a message at the office.

## STUDIO 5

**Sarah Coote**, a former student at Sheridan College in Toronto and graduate of the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design in Halifax and Alfred University in the U.S. has been selected as resident of the Studio 5 space at 1359 Cartwright for 1991.

Sarah moved to Vancouver this past summer from Nova Scotia and has been sabbatical replacement at ECCAD this fall. She works in high-fired porcelain ware, and we welcome her! Best wishes to Fredi in her continued endeavors.

**NOTE:** Membership in the Guild is renewable by the end of December. Send form on page 7 with your cheque or money order.

Thank you!

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Board is made up of 12 elected members and, according to the Constitution of the Guild, 3 of those members should have served a three-year term, and therefore either step down or be willing to stand for re-election. This year, only two members have actually served a three-year term—Kathryn Youngs, Treasurer, and Bob Kingsmill, Newsletter Editorial Committee Chairman. Elsa Schamis was elected to the Board three years ago, but was granted a leave-of-absence due to illness the first year, so will continue for a further year.

There are three Board members stepping down for various reasons before their three-year term is up. They are Heather Chapman, Laura Taylor and Carol Klasen. In addition, Dona Nabata, who agreed to step into a breach last year after the AGM, must stand for election this year, so there are six positions to be refilled.

The six who have agreed to carry on are: Tam Irving, 1990 President and Exhibitions Committee Chairman; D'Arcy Margesson, Vice-President and Gallery Committee Chairman; June MacDonald, Secretary and Awards Chairman; Elwin Lowe, Exhibitions Committee; Elsa Schamis, Exhibitions Committee; and Nathan Rafla, Program Committee Chairman.

Both Kathryn Youngs and Bob Kingsmill are willing to stand for re-election, and Dona Nabata has agreed to have her name stand. In addition, a good number of other members are interested in becoming more involved in the Guild. Therefore, the list of nominated members for election to six positions on the Board of Directors for 1991 is:

**Rosemary Amon**, a potter of high-fired functional ware from Burnaby, has been Newsletter mailing assistant for 2+ years;

**Jacqui Berglund**, of Vancouver, a new and enthusiastic member of the Guild, and a Langara Ceramics Student;

**Don Hutchinson**, Ceramic Instructor at Langara Campus, VCC, long-time BC resident and explorer of our natural ceramic resources;

**Bob Kingsmill**, resident Granville Island studio personality, instructor, past Board Member and contributor to the Newsletter;

**Dona Nabata**, earthenware ceramic artist, interim Board Member and Nominating Committee Chairman, 1990, from Vancouver;

**Fredi Rahn**, graduate of NSCAD and 1990 Studio 5 resident, works in earthenware;

**Terry Saimoto**, long-time Guild member and supporter, works in fine porcelain, from Burnaby;

**Debra Sloan**, Vancouver ceramic artist who has been on family "sabbatical" from Guild involvement;

**Kathryn Youngs**, past Treasurer of the Guild, ceramic artist who uses clay as a 3-D canvas, Vancouver resident.

To all of you who have contributed to the Guild over the past three years, our thanks are due, and we similarly thank those of you who are interested and willing to get involved again or for the first time.

Dona Nabata  
Nominating Cttee Chairman



## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The Canadian Conference of the Arts is preparing, in collaboration with Canada Council, two practical guides on the GST, one for individual artists, the other for arts organizations. The guides will introduce the GST, its application and management, covering, among other things taxable supplies, grants and donations, fundraising, self-employed artists versus employed, and special rules for individuals.

Both publications will be available by the end of December. If you are interested in receiving more information on the GST or on the guides, please contact Brigitte Beulne, Director of Information, Canadian Conference of the Arts, 189 Laurier Avenue East, Ottawa, ON K1N 6P1; telephone: (613) 238-3561; Fax: (613) 238-4849.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Jan:

We feel we should respond to the letter from JW in last month's Newsletter because of some inaccuracies and the impression this might leave.

Your correspondent says that when the size of clay boxes changed from 25kg to 20kg a few years ago, the price did not change. In fact, the price per box for both Fairey and Plainsman clays, when purchased from Greenbarn, decreased immediately. Looking at our price list one year after the changes, prices were still 13% less than before the change.

It has always been our policy to pass on any savings we can, and the savings resulting from the change in box size was one example of this policy.

In terms of the GST, we wish it were as simple as indicated. The old Federal Sales Tax, at a rate of 13.5%, was charged only on the manufacturer's price of the goods. The new GST, at a rate of 7%, will be charged on the total of **all** costs, including the goods, freight, brokerage, duty, etc. Therefore one cannot calculate new prices by simply subtracting 13.5% and adding 7%. Complicating it even further are changes in prices from suppliers and fluctuations in exchange rates.

One important aspect for potters and craftspeople running a business is the fact that all of the GST paid by them on supplies **and** operating costs can be reclaimed—even rent and phone costs! The old FST was not reclaimable. We would encourage everyone to obtain and examine the GST information packages. There are some options available that may make the accounting aspects of GST relatively painless.

GREENBARN POTTERS SUPPLY LTD.

*Please register me for the*

### PAUL MATHIEU WORKSHOP

Saturday and Sunday, February 16 & 17, 1991 10 am - 4 pm  
at ECCAD Ceramics Department, 1399 Johnston St., Granville Island

\$35 Guild Member ..... \$40 Non member

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

*Mail to:*

The Potters Guild of B.C.  
1359 Cartwright St.  
Vancouver, B.C. V6H 3R7

☐ Membership Application

☐ Membership Renewal

☐ Change of Address

*Mail to:*

The Potters Guild of B.C.  
1359 Cartwright St.  
Vancouver, B.C. V6H 3R7

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

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Apologies to Doris Liddle of the Fraser Valley Potters' Guild for our misspelling of her name.

### **UNCLASSIFIED**

**For Sale:** Estrin motorized kick wheel in good condition. Asking \$450.00. Call Margaret at 922-0256.

**For Sale:** Contents of studio (everything *except* wheel and kiln) wedging counter, bats, clay and glaze materials, etc. Call 224-2551.

**For Sale:** Estrin kick wheel, \$100.00. Call Muriel at 263-5590.

**For Sale:** Wooden kick wheel, \$100; octagonal electric kiln, 18" wide and 15" deep inside dimensions, with kiln sitter, \$400.00; electric test kiln, 13" cubed inside dimension, asking \$150. Box of miscellaneous glazes. Call Rosanna at 738-7001.

## **GREENBARN POTTERS SUPPLY LTD.**

9548-192nd Street, Surrey  
Phone: 888-3411

Greenbarn Potter's Supply Ltd. is pleased to announce that effective October 1st, 1990, Dave Dobie has been appointed manager.

John Porter is moving to a more flexible schedule. It would be advisable to phone ahead to ensure contact with him. Stan Clarke will continue to be in the store on Fridays and Saturdays.

### **BOOKS: (before GST )**

We have a good stock of books in for Christmas and to take advantage of the lower price before GST comes in. Books will have GST added in January.

"Potter's Manual" \$23.95

**NEW:** "Ceramics" by Richard Zakin \$28.95

### **Clearance sale on STRATFORD CLAYS: 40% off**

#50 - \$17.36

#80 - \$17.60

#80G - \$18.00

#85 - \$18.60

**Please note that we are OPEN on Saturdays  
from 9-1. Regular hours:**

Monday - Friday 9 - 5

Saturdays 9 - 1

### **CHRISTMAS HOURS:**

Open regular hours up to and including  
Saturday, December 22nd.

Open: Dec. 24th until 2 pm.

Closed: Dec. 25th & 26th.

Open: Dec. 27th & 28th.

Closed: Dec. 29,30,31 and Jan. 1st.

Open: Regular hours starting Jan. 2nd.